

Desired Characteristics of a Bait for Skipjack Tuna

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ABSTRACT

Skipjack tuna, Katsuwonus pelamis, fishing in the central Pacific Ocean is largely dependent upon a limited supply of live baitfish, the nehu, Stolephorus purpureus. Experiments by the Honolulu Laboratory in a search for effective live bait substitutes or supplements have resulted in the collection of much information on behavioral characteristics of the experimental baits. Characteristics of an effective skipjack tuna bait are: a tendency to flee towards the surface, elusiveness, a high light reflectance, a length of 2-6 cm, and the durability to survive in a baitwell.

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